THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The time limit for submitting statements of facts was extended by Verma Commission of Inquiry in view of several requests received from various quarters particularly concerned Government Departments and officials.

[English]

Introduction of Fax Machines in Post Offices

4035. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install FAX machines in post offices on experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for popularisation of Electronic mail service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electronic mail has not yet been intorduced.

[Translation]

Alleged Irregularities in Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut

4036. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of irregularities in Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut have been brought to the notice of the Union Government,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints relate to alleged irregularities in execution of civil works, furnishing of official residence, use of official vehicle, etc.

(c) the complaints on detailed examination were found to be untenable and without evidence. Consequently no further action was taken.

[English]

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Orissa

4037. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges in Orissa and the number out of them likely to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to expand the telecommunication network in Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are 477 telephone exchanges in Orissa as on 31.7.1991. out of these 128 are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges during 1991-92 and about 100 during 1992-93.

(b) The broad proposal to expand the telecom network in Orissa telecom circle during 1991-92 envisage, installation/expansion of over 90 electronic exchanges with a net addition of 11770 exchange lines and providing 9589 new telephone connections extension of Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility to 50 places.

Setting up of River Board

4038. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a River Board

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main objectives of setting up of such Boards; and

(c) the time by which such Board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A Statement regarding setting up of River Board is attached.

STATEMENT

The River Board Act, enacted in 1956 provides for establishment of a river board on a request received from the interested Government in this behalf for